

# Welcome to Kindergarten

Gradual Entry Information

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024



Please read this orientation package completely. It has been created to provide you and your child with the necessary information for a successful transition into Kindergarten at Woodland Park Elementary school. We look forward to being a part of your child's learning journey!

# Woodland Park Elementary School

## Welcome to Kindergarten

### Social and Emotional Considerations

We recognize that some children may be apprehensive about the school environment as they may not have had many opportunities to play with peers or participate in activities outside the home. Some ways in which parents could ease the transition into kindergarten is to provide activities and share books that enhance emotional literacy and mindfulness. Parents are encouraged to help their child become aware of different emotions. This might include identifying what they look like (facial expressions) and feel like. This knowledge of feelings can benefit your child going into new situations and with their social interactions.

Some resources to support Kindergarten transitions are:

Children's Books: In My Heart: A book of Feelings by Jo Witek  
The Invisible String by Patrice Karst  
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

Name That Feeling: [Surreyschoolsone.ca](http://Surreyschoolsone.ca)

Naming Emotions: [Surreyschoolsone.ca](http://Surreyschoolsone.ca)

### Registration (September 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, is the opening day of school for School District #36. September 3<sup>rd</sup> has been set aside for confirmation that your child is registered for kindergarten and will be attending our school. Registration occurs between 10:00 am and 11:00 am. Registration takes place outside the two Kindergarten classrooms located at the front of the school to:

- Confirm registration.
- Pick up newsletters and an information package.
- Sign-up for a Child-Focused interview.

If you are not able to be in attendance on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and you still plan to have your child attend Woodland Park for Kindergarten, please notify the school at 604-589-5957 or by school email: [woodlandpark@surreyschools.ca](mailto:woodlandpark@surreyschools.ca).

### Class Organization

At this time, we will not be able to confirm which class your child will be in as we are working to verify our Kindergarten enrolment numbers. We hope to have information about your child's permanent classroom and teacher by Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Based on our final student enrolment numbers, there is a possibility of additional classes and K/1 combined classes.

## Child-Focused Interviews

Kindergarten is an important transition. To help us get to know your child socially, emotionally, and academically, we will be offering 15-minute time slots for parents/guardians and their child to meet with one of the kindergarten teachers on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Please ensure you sign up for a time during registration and

This visit together will provide an opportunity for you and your child to share background information regarding your child's health and development, and to explore expectations or express concerns in a comfortable, private setting. Any other information that you feel might be important for the teacher to know, or be helpful in understanding your child, would also be appreciated.

*\*Please note that your child may not necessarily be placed with the teacher you have your interview with.*

## Gradual Entry Sessions

Kindergarten students will be attending classes on their own. We know this may be difficult for some children. Our school team is here to support you through this gradual entry process. Please see the Gradual Entry Calendar below for school times for your Kindergarten child. To begin the Gradual Entry process, children are divided into two groups, Group A and Group B. The groups are formed by your child's last name.

Group A: Last Names A to L

Group B: Last Names M to Z

Kindergarten gradual entry builds a solid foundation for school life by providing:

- shorter school sessions to support children's transition to their new environment, teacher, and peers.
- time for each family to share important information about their child and begin building positive home-school relationships.
- smaller group sessions that allow teachers to introduce classroom routines and procedures, as well as place additional focus on each child so they will feel comfortable and valued as new members of the school community.

Please note that the Gradual Entry Sessions for the first four 1 ½ hour sessions for children in **Group A have a delayed school start of 10 minutes**. If you have an older child attending the school, please take them to their grade group meeting place first.

## Kindergarten Classes (September 4<sup>th</sup> to September 13<sup>th</sup>)

Please refer to the Gradual Entry calendar below for specific times for your child. Having students come in smaller groups is key to a successful transition for your child. When you arrive at school, check the

kindergarten classroom windows for which classroom your child will be in for the session. Our goal is for students to enter the classroom independently. Parents, please use your typical family routines to say goodbye (hug / kiss etc.).

Most importantly, remind your child that you will pick them up “soon.” Share what you will be doing once you pick them up. Focus on the hello (when you pick them up again) and not the goodbye.

If your child struggles to enter the classroom, please take them to the end of the line and we will try again. If your child still needs more time to enter the classroom, the teacher will work with you and your family to develop strategies and extra support.

If you are staying at the school to wait for your child, please refrain from watching from the window. Students are easily distracted by their parents, and the teachers will need your support to help your child transition to their new environment and focus on developing new school routines.

## First Full Day of School

Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> will be the first full session of attendance for kindergarten students. Kindergarten classes will begin at our regular bell schedule of 8:25 am and will end at 2:23 pm. A final class list will be posted in the kindergarten windows to let you know the classroom where your child is to be dropped off and picked up.

The first few full attendance sessions of school are tiring for our young learners. We would encourage you to ensure that your child has plenty of rest and a good breakfast before coming to school!

## Arrival and Pick Up Routines

Our welcome bell at Woodland Park is at 8:25 am and students will line up at their Kindergarten classroom doors outside of the school building. Teachers will bring the children into the classroom at 8:25 am. Ideally, students will come into their classroom on their own without a parent/guardian. It is much easier for the child to adjust if they can take this first brave step during gradual entry!

If you experience any difficulties or have any concerns, please see one of the kindergarten teachers privately. To ensure student safety, children are to be picked up at the classroom door every day. Please communicate this with your child so they know you will be waiting for them. If you are running late, please contact the school office, and the teacher will either wait with your child at the door until you arrive, or your child will wait for you at the school office.

## Parent Parking

Please be aware that the school parking lot is reserved for school staff only and is not used for student drop-off and pick-up. We do have a designated drop off area for older students who do not need their parent to walk them to the classroom door. There is no parking in the school drop off area and drivers may not leave their vehicle in this zone. We recommend that Kindergarten parents park on the streets surrounding the school. If possible, we also encourage you to walk to the school to drop off and pick up your child.

## Clothing

Children should wear play clothes that are comfortable and easy to wash. We paint, use play dough, exercise, sit on the floor, play outside, etc. Make sure that the clothing worn can easily be undone or done up independently while using the washroom.

You may also want to consider packing a spare set of clothes for your child if they need to change. Also, please ensure that your child wears slip-on or Velcro-closing shoes with non-marking soles that they can put on and take off independently.

## Washroom Etiquette

If your child is used to having assistance from you in the washroom, please practice independence. As well, we would kindly request that you review good hygiene practices with your child (i.e., proper handwashing, wiping, flushing the toilet, urinating only in the toilet, etc.) If your child struggles in this area, please connect with one of the teachers to create a plan of support.

## Preparation for the School Day

Kindergarten is a busy and active time for your child. They will need routines at home to ensure they have a successful transition. Please keep the following in mind:

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a nourishing breakfast.
- Arrive on time at school in the morning with their backpack and lunch packed the night before.
- When your child comes home from school, reconnect with special one-on-one time (*talking about their day, playing outside, or sharing a story*). These are only a few ideas for you and your family.

## Lunch and Snacks

On Tuesday Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, your child will only need to bring a snack to school. Students will practice getting out their snacks, eating at their desk, and cleaning up. For success and efficiency, please only send one or two items for snack along with a leakproof water bottle.

Beginning on Friday September 13<sup>th</sup>, your child will need to bring a snack and a lunch to school. Please ensure that your child knows what to eat for a snack, and what to eat for lunch. If your child does not finish their lunch, please do not worry at this time. Over the course of the year, we will help you and your child with strategies to encourage this! Having your child help with healthy choices for their snack and lunch may also help your child during school eating times.

## Lunch-Kit Tips

Pack their snack and lunch in separate containers. Water is the best drink at school. Please send a water bottle to school each day. Please ensure that any cutlery your child needs is also packed, as we cannot supply it. We recommend sending healthy lunches and snacks to school and saving treats for after school. We would also kindly ask that your child bring peanut-free/nut-free food items for their snack and lunch to give our children with peanut/nut allergies a safe school environment.

Your child is to bring their lunch with them to school when they arrive in the morning. However, if lunch is forgotten and you need to bring it later in the day, please ensure that it is dropped off at the office by 11:30 am and that it is clearly labelled with your child's name and division.

At home, students should practice opening and closing containers, their lunch kit, and their water bottle. They also need to practice cleaning up their table area and the floor area underneath them.

## School Supplies

The kindergarten teachers have pre-ordered school supplies in bulk since items are shared among all students. We have experienced success with this program in the past and can provide good quality tools for learning. The cost for kindergarten school supplies is \$50.00 for the year. A notice will be sent home after Gradual Entry outlining the instructions for online payment.

Parents are still welcome to purchase materials themselves if they wish. Please contact the classroom teacher for further information.

## Additional Items to Purchase

We request that students have a pair of slip-ons or Velcro closing runners (i.e., "inside shoes") for gym and inside the classroom. Please do not send lace-up runners, slippers, or shoes with marking black soles. Please label the shoes clearly with your child's name.

A full-size backpack is required to bring their lunch and snack to school, and to take home library books and work. No miniature backpacks or purses, please! Your child will be required to bring their backpack to school every day.

## In closing...

We hope that this booklet has answered many of your questions and clarified the organizational procedures required in settling your child into their kindergarten classroom. Our goal is to help you feel comfortable too and welcome you to come to the school on many occasions. Our communication and working together can make kindergarten a happy and successful experience for your child!

If you have any questions regarding any information in this booklet or about the Gradual Entry Sessions, you are warmly invited to call the school at 604-589-5957.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers:

Mrs. Colwell  
Ms. Robert  
Mrs. Unsworth  
Mrs. Whitham  
Ms. McLaughlin

# Gradual Entry for Kindergarten September 2024

Group A: Last Names A to L

Group B: Last Names M to Z

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2</p> <p>Labour Day School Closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Registration Day for Kindergarten Students &amp; Families</p> <p>Come Meet the K Teachers and Sign up for Interview Times</p> <p>10:00 am–11:00 am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1.5 Hour Class</p> <p>Group A 8:35 am – 10:05 am</p> <p>Group B 10:30 am – 12:00 pm</p> <p><i>Check K class windows for class lists</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>1.5 Hour Class</p> <p>Group A 8:35 am – 10:05 am</p> <p>Group B 10:30 am – 12:00 pm</p> <p><i>Check K class windows for class lists</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>1.5 Hour Class</p> <p>Group A 8:35 am – 10:05 am</p> <p>Group B 10:30 am – 12:00 pm</p> <p><i>Check K class windows for class lists</i></p>
<p>9</p> <p>Group A 8:35 am – 10:05 am</p> <p>Group B 10:30 am – 12:00 pm</p> <p><i>Check K class windows for class lists</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>2 Hour Class</p> <p>All Students 8:25 am -10:25 am</p> <p>Child-Focused Interviews</p> <p><i>Check K class windows for class lists</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>3 Hour Class</p> <p>All Students 8:25 am -11:25 am (Snack)</p> <p>Child-Focused Interviews</p> <p><i>Check K class windows for class lists</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>3 Hour Class</p> <p>All Students 8:25 am -11:25 am (Snack)</p> <p>Child-Focused Interviews</p> <p><i>Check K class windows for class lists</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>4 Hour Class</p> <p>All Students 8:25 am -12:25 am (Snack and Lunch)</p> <p><i>Check K class windows for class lists</i></p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:25 am –2:23 pm (Snack and Lunch)</p> <p>First Full Day of School for Kindergarten Students</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:25 am –2:23 pm (Snack and Lunch)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:25 am –2:23 pm (Snack and Lunch)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:25 am –2:23 pm (Snack and Lunch)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:25 am –2:23 pm (Snack and Lunch)</p>









